

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-based system that correlates process-related data with license use data reflecting use of software products, the system comprising:

5 a process-related software facility that collects and stores computer-based and process-related data that is constituted of one or more data fields selected from a data field group consisting of: job-name; job-id; LOS-id; "accounting" information applicable to a job; job-step-id; user-id; processing-program names; and lists of libraries, 10 files or databases used by a process;

a license manager that manages the grant of license use rights to a plurality of software products and which collects and stores data reflecting the use of the software products in the form of software product use data; and

15 a correlator that correlates the software product use data with the process-related data and creates records that reflect the use of the software products related at least in part to the process-related data.

2. The system of claim 1, in which the system is configured so that the software products are represented as a plurality of software clients and the license manager is configured as a license manager server.

3. The system of claim 2, including a facility that creates a token upon a request by a software client to obtain a license certificate to permit execution thereof.

4. The system of claim 3, further including a facility that creates a license dialogue id (LDI) that identifies a current licensing session at the license manager.

5. The system of claim 4, further including a facility that correlates the use of tokens with the LDIs and creates matching records reflecting the same.

6. The system of claim 3, in which the token is created by a client exit routine (CER).

7. The system of claim 6, in which the CER is configured to received control in a corresponding client's or agent's address space.

8. The system of claim 3, in which the tokens are created by reference to a logical operating system (LOS).

9. The system of claim 4, in which the LDIs are created by a server exit routine (SER) which creates SER data and wherein process-related information and corresponding tokens are stored in a client logical log (CLL).

10. The system of claim 9, in which the license manager comprises a main server and a plurality of server agents, and the agents receive license function calls from the software clients.

11. The system of claim 3, including a client exit routine (CER) which creates CER data, including the tokens, and including a server exit routine (SER) which creates SER data, including a license dialogue id (LDI).

12. The system of claim 11, in which the correlator is a process that retrieves and correlates the CER data from the software clients with the SER data collected by the license manager and which locates for each token entry, a corresponding entry in the SER data, to create matching records.

13. The system of claim 12, in which the correlator is operable to segregate the matching records based on logical operating systems.

14. The system of claim 3, further including a facility that creates a license dialogue id (LDI) that identifies a current license session at the software client.

15. The system of claim 6, in which the CER includes a facility that gathers the process-related data.

16. The system of claim 15, in which the CER stores information in a corresponding client logical log (CLL) thereof.

17. The system of claim 11, in which the correlator is operable to carry out sequence matching by correlating sequential data obtained by the CER and sequential information recorded by the SER.

18. The system of claim 1, in which the correlator uses the user-id field of the process-related data to correlate license dialogues with job processing information.

19. The system of claim 18, in which the correlator bases its correlation function on one or more parameters selected from the group including: logical operating system pertaining to different data; source of process-related data; 5 time-stamps attached to data records and user-id.